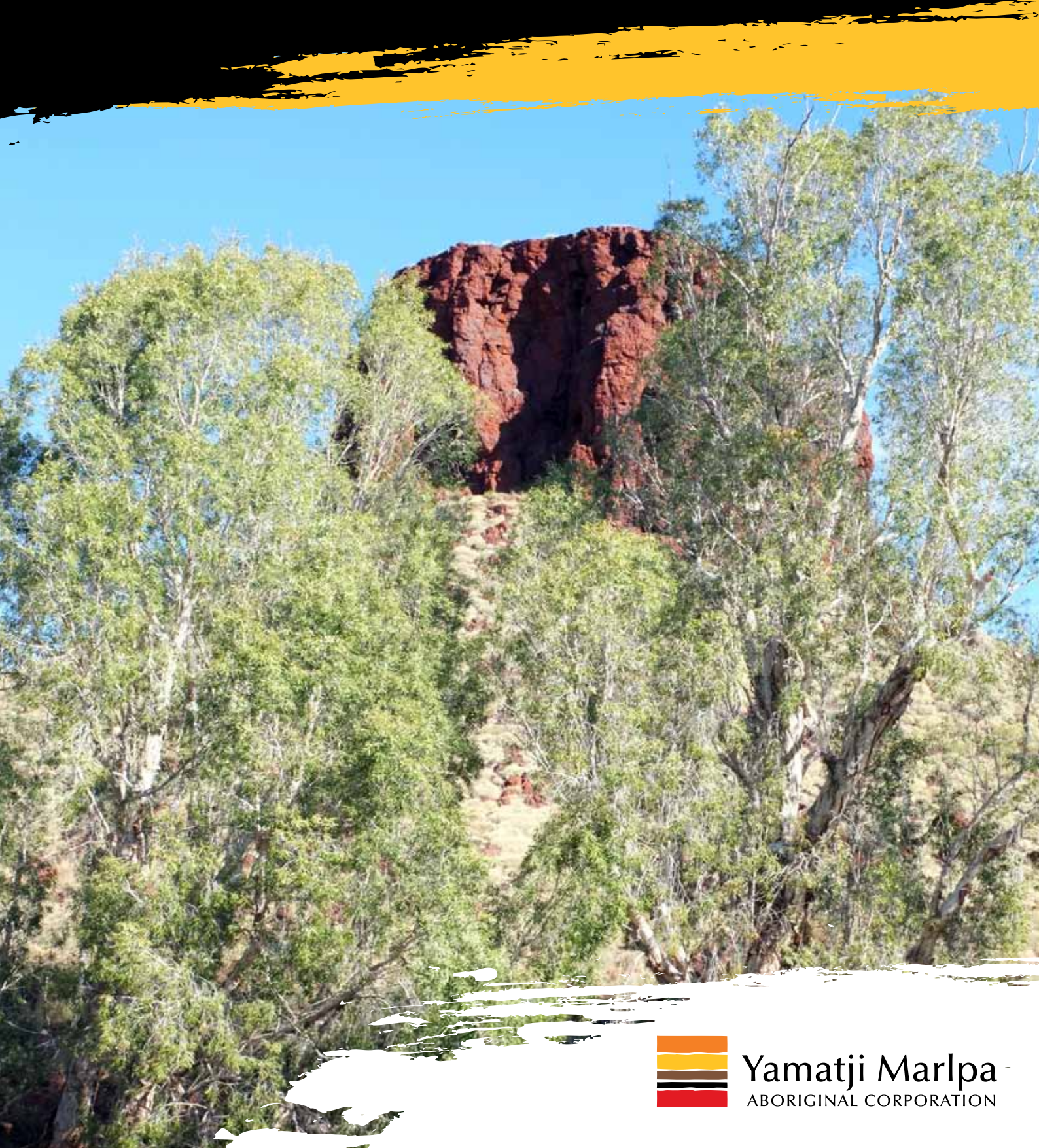


# YMAAC NEWS

News from Yamatji  
Marlpa Aboriginal  
Corporation

ISSUE 29 | FEBRUARY 2016



Yamatji Marlpa  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



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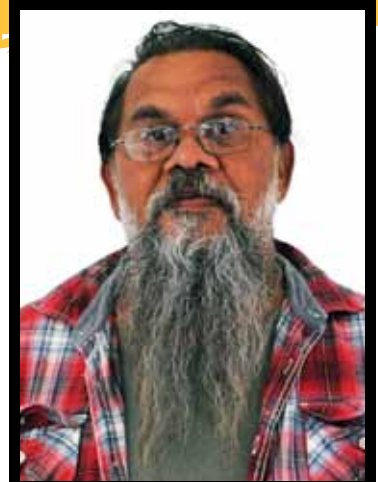
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**FRONT COVER:** Parlapunni  
(Pannawonica Hill) on  
Jajiwarra (Robe River)  
Kuruma Country



**Mrs Doris Eaton,  
Co-Chair (Pilbara)**



**Mr Ben Roberts,  
Co-Chair (Yamatji)**

Welcome to the 29th edition of YMAC News, the newsletter of the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

With a new year beginning, we are excited to celebrate the successes of 2015 and continue advancing the interests of Yamatji and Pilbara Traditional Owners.

This year will be exciting for YMAC. We are building on successful determinations and progressing with outstanding claims. It will require a lot of hard work and patience, but together we will succeed.

While three significant determinations were achieved last year for the peoples of Jurruru, PKKP and Ngarluma, much more work is needed to recognise Country across Western Australia. The State and Commonwealth governments continue to ignore our communities when making their decisions, which means we must use this opportunity and this new year to speak louder and with one voice.

We hope that 2016 will bring more Traditional Owners from both the Pilbara and Yamatji regions together to talk about our goals for further progress. Let us make this year one of success and opportunity for all Traditional Owners.

Caution: Readers please be advised this publication may contain the names, images, and words of deceased persons. We apologise for any distress this may cause.

# Recognition for **Ngarluma** over traditional Country

In December 2015, the Ngarluma People celebrated the legal recognition of their land and culture at a Federal Court hearing to recognise their native title rights.

Justice McKerracher made the determination recognising the Ngarluma People's non-exclusive rights to the towns of Wickham, Point Samson and Karratha after these were excluded from the Ngarluma determination in 2005. This application was filed in 2008 and covers approximately 21.5 square kilometres of land in

the Shire of Roebourne, over the town sites of Wickham, Point Samson and Karratha.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said this determination is a positive outcome for the Ngarluma people. "After seven years, the towns of Wickham, Point Samson and Karratha have been recognised as Ngarluma Country, something the Ngarluma people have always known."

The Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation will administer their business.



**“After seven years, the towns of Wickham, Point Samson, and Karratha have been recognised as Ngarluma Country, something the Ngarluma people have always known.**

**- Simon Hawkins, CEO Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation**

**Keith Churnside, Josie Samson, Michael Walker Sr, Pansy Hicks and Belinda Churnside**  
Ngarluma Traditional Owners

# Banjima people **sign BHP** agreement

BHP Billiton has signed a new native title agreement with the Banjima People in Western Australia.

The BHP Billiton Banjima Comprehensive Agreement covers an area of 8263 square kilometres and includes a number of the company's Pilbara-based iron ore operations and most of the Banjima Native Title determination area.

Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Chairperson, Slim Parker, said: "We are in the midst of a period of great change. Through the agreement, the Banjima People have a great opportunity to build a fantastic future through programs and projects.

"The Banjima People are privileged to be at the forefront of a future that can truly be fabulous in all areas of our lives. Change is the name of the game if we the Banjima People are to build prosperity through self-determination. This will enable sustainability of our law and culture for future generations to come."

BHP Billiton Iron Ore President, Jimmy Wilson, said the agreement was believed to be one of the most significant of its kind in Australia and highlighted the Company's transparent and unique approach to engaging Indigenous communities.

"BHP Billiton and the Banjima People have carefully considered all of the terms of this agreement over many years to ensure it would provide real and lasting benefits to both parties," he said.

"With a life of more than 100 years, it provides long-term certainty for both BHP Billiton, in terms of our current operations and potential future developments, and the Banjima People, with regards to how we will respect and treat their land."

Simon Hawkins, CEO of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, said this agreement between BHP Billiton Iron Ore and the Banjima People is a positive outcome after many years of negotiation.

"This agreement between BHP Billiton and the Banjima People is a great achievement for all parties involved. It shows that mining and Traditional Owners can co-exist if parties are willing to listen and work co-operatively," he said.

The area of the BHP Billiton Banjima Comprehensive Agreement includes some of BHP Billiton's interests at Mining Area C, Yandi, Munjina, Upper Marillana, Ministers North, parts of Mudlark, Roy Hill and Marillana.





**“ This will enable sustainability of our law and culture for future generations to come.**

**- Slim Parker, Banjima Traditional Owner**

**ABOVE: Margaret Beck, BHPIO; Maitland Parker, Banjima Traditional Owner; Slim Parker, Banjima Traditional Owner; Jimmy Wilson, President, BHPIO**

**BELOW: Gya Ngoop Keeninyarra, an Aboriginal dance troupe, commemorates the agreement at King's Park, in Perth**



# Yamatji Chair speaks at CEDA in Carnarvon

On November 5, 2015, YMAC Co-Chairperson Ben Roberts attended the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) and addressed the "Future of the Gascoyne".

A Thudgari Traditional Owner and resident of Carnarvon, Mr Roberts spoke of the importance of bringing business owners, local governments and traditional communities together to invest in the future of the region.

"Traditional Owners must be seen as decision makers, and as a community, identifying unique needs and aspirations are important for successful relationships with local governments and industry," said Mr Roberts.

"Native title groups are a core unit of the region, and the future of the Gascoyne will depend on our contributions."

Mr Roberts told the conference that there is a real opportunity for more work with Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) to grow the economy, and PBC's like the Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation and the Burringurrah Aboriginal Community have worked on tourism projects that have helped with this - The Baiyungu Track project is a tourism feature on the Gascoyne Coastline, while the Burringurrah Aboriginal Community were part of the Mount Augustus and Gascoyne task force to increase opportunities in tourism and land management in the area.

"We as a people know this Country and will be able to guide and focus on the growth with tourism and leadership of the area," Mr Roberts said.

"It is important for local government to work with us on this - as we are the caretakers of the land and it is important for our people to be part of the growth of the Gascoyne."



**Ben Roberts**, YMAC Co-Chair (Yamatji), speaks to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia



# K&M Preservation Evidence

YMAC was pleased to represent the Kuruma & Marthudenera People during the collection of Preservation Evidence in October 2015.

A team of YMAC research, heritage and legal staff along with State and Commonwealth lawyers accompanied K&M elders to a variety of sites, and observed the telling of the K&M People's connection to Country before Justice Rangiah of the Federal Court.

The Preservation Evidence will support a legal challenge in early 2017 to gain a determination for a larger area of traditional K&M lands. While an offer of consent determination was made for the eastern claim area, the court will hear how the K&M peoples have a significant and lasting connection to the entire Robe River region.



**ABOVE:** M. Lockyer presenting a location on-Country

**BELOW:** Deepdale, a waterhole on the Robe River





# Knowledge Partnerships: **Camping with** Custodians

Markettrade contacted Knowledge Partnerships to develop a recommended approach to engage with Aboriginal Corporations and Traditional Owners in the Pilbara, and will help to identify potential campground sites on Aboriginal-owned land that are matched with communities aspiring to participate in mainstream tourism. Knowledge Partnerships identified Aboriginal stakeholders, prepared a consultation strategy, and undertook initial consultations with Aboriginal groups.

Camping with Custodians, Pilbara, is an initiative of the WA Caravan and Camping Action Plan:

2013 - 2018, facilitating the development of commercial campgrounds on Aboriginal land along major routes in the Pilbara region.

The aim is to establish up to three quality serviced camping grounds where visitors can experience the majestic Pilbara in the company of Traditional Owners, creating revenue and employment opportunities for Aboriginal communities. Markettrade successfully won the Tourism WA tender to identify sites for camping grounds and will prepare funding applications through Royalties for Regions.



# K&M Traditional **Ecological** Knowledge



**ABOVE:** Waterhole at **Jungarri**, in Kuruma Country outside Pannawonica  
**LEFT:** **Dale's Gorge** in Banjima Country, Pilbara

Knowledge Partnerships has been working with the Kuruma and Marthudunera (K&M) Peoples on a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project. Funding for the TEK is provided by Lotterywest and with support from the Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation (KMAC).

The project has been focusing on the areas around the Bungaroo Valley and Jinnawurrada and Bungaroo creeks in the Pilbara. The K&M Peoples' aim is to record things such as plants, animals and their medicinal purposes, and discusses the traditional ecological knowledge concerning them.

Two on-Country trips were undertaken with senior Kuruma men and women in August and November 2015. Elders from the K&M communities showed the YMAC Knowledge Partnerships team 36 local specimens which have now been documented.

A comprehensive report of the trip's findings is intended to be delivered in the coming months and will be provided to KMAC.

Contact Brooke St James on 08 9268 7000 if you would like more information on Knowledge Partnerships.

[www.ymac.org.au/knowledge-partnerships](http://www.ymac.org.au/knowledge-partnerships)



# Community profile: **Ashley Bell**

YMAC would like to highlight a member of the community who has gone above and beyond to advance the causes of Traditional Owners.

Ashley Bell is a Badimia Traditional Owner. In 2015, Mr Bell worked with YMAC to recognise Badimia Country. While the claim was unsuccessful, Mr Bell's efforts to enhance and enrich the larger community have continued. For the last two years as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer for Mt Gibson Mining, he has run cultural awareness sessions and offered a range of mentoring services for young people. He has also helped to ensure a stable workforce by contributing to an especially low turnover of Aboriginal employees. As an educator, he is responsible for ensuring consideration for issues of cultural heritage with the company. Keep up the good work, Ashley!



**Ashley Bell**, Badimia Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Liaison Officer for Mt Gibson Mining



**His approachable demeanour has resulted in people from all cultural backgrounds displaying an interest in Aboriginal heritage.**

**- Ashley's supervisors, Mt Gibson Mining**

Fond colleagues of Mr Bell: **Ben McLernon, Steve Churchill and Reece Olney** of Mt Gibson Mining;



# Regional Committee Updates

## Yamatji Region

The committee members for the Yamatji region for 2016 are as follows:

**Ben Roberts:** Co-Chairperson - Board of Directors, Chairperson;

**Victor Mourambine:** Deputy Co-Chairperson - Board of Directors, Deputy Chairperson;

**Paul Baron**

**Darren Capewell**

**Rhodda Capewell**

**Cicily Dowden**

**Dion Harris**

**Karlene Mongoo**

**Rachel Mongoo**

**Davina Mourambine**

**Deborah Oakley**

**Richard Oakley**

**Susan Oakley**

**Rodney Ryan**

**Peter Windie**

## Pilbara Region

The committee members for the Pilbara region for 2016 are as follows:

**Doris Eaton:** Co-Chairperson - Board of Directors, Chairperson;

**Natalie Parker:** Deputy Co-Chairperson - Board of Directors, Deputy Chairperson;

**Raylene Button**

**Nora Cooke**

**Terry Jaffrey**

**Albert Pianta**

**Ivan Smirke**

**Diane Stewart**

**Selina Stewart**

# Changes at YMAC We've moved!

2016 has already been a year of change for YMAC!

Our offices in Perth and South Hedland have moved. The contact information for our new locations can be found on the back cover of this newsletter.

These changes will enable us to better support our members and native title claims.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted with the transition!



YMAC Office, Perth

# country culture peoplefuture

www.ymac.org.au  
freecall: 1300 712 345

## About us

YMAC News is produced by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).

We are the native title representative body for native title claims in the Murchison, Gascoyne and Pilbara regions of Western Australia.

We work with Yamatji and Marlpa (Pilbara) Aboriginal people to pursue:

- Recognition and acceptance of Yamatji and Marlpa culture in country; and
- A strong future for Yamatji and Marlpa people and country



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Send your questions, ideas, letters and photos to [editor@ymac.org.au](mailto:editor@ymac.org.au)

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